



From Social Mania to Shared Life

The catastrophe of cutting corners to community and how to cultivate healthy relationships

Human beings are created for community. We find fullness and fulfillment in positive, healthy, and intimate relationships. Our 21st century lifestyles offer lots of cheap and superficial 'short-cuts' to feeling connected but, like social 'junk food', they give us a temporary rush but soon leave us sick, empty, and hungry. God promises that if we cultivate deep relationships, with God and others, we will nurture body, mind, and spirit and find real and enduring community

1/14/2024

Social Media

Acts 2:44-47

Social Media may seem like community at our fingertips or on a screen. In reality, aside from a few superficial benefits, social media stokes our worst social impulses. Real community starts with sharing our real selves.

1/21/2024

Consumer Culture

Luke 12:15-21

Our culture is gorged in 'stuff', like houses, cars, clothes, toys, food, vacations, gadgets, and the list goes on and on and on. When we are 'stuffed with stuff', pursuing and deriving our sense of worth from material things, we neglect relationship and real community. No amount of stuff can fill the emptiness of being alone.

1/28/2024

Fanatics

Mark 10:28-31

Being a fan can be fun and exciting. But we should never be misled into thinking we are part of the team, unless of course we come down out of the stands and start participating. Real community happens when we put real skin in the game.

2/4/2024

Bubbles, Silos, & Echo Chambers

Romans 14:1-12

We get so offended by people who think, act, believe, and value differently than we do, that we often only associate with those who are very much like us. Real community accepts differences, leaves it God to judge, and celebrates what we have in common in Christ.

2/11/2024

From Back Decks to Front Porches

Hebrews 13:1-3

Most of us live very narrowly cultivated lives with very narrowly cultivated relationships. Our 'back deck' culture necessitates we know fewer people well enough to invite into our private space. A 'front porch' lifestyle embraces that space where strangers and friends alike can meet and build real community.